



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 2, 2007

SUBJECT: Not Likely to Adversely Affect Determination for Metolachlor Relative to the
Endangered Barton Springs Salamander

FROM: Edward Odenkirchen, Ph.D, Senior Scientist *E. Odenkirchen*
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TO: Arthur-Jean B. Williams, Associate Director Environmental Fate and Effects
Division

Attached is the assessment of potential effects to the endangered Barton Springs salamander from uses of the herbicide metolachlor. While the Endangered Species Act requires that EPA assess uses of pesticides relative to any potentially affected listed species, this assessment focuses only on the Barton Springs salamander, addressing provisions of the settlement agreement entered into by the federal government to resolve claims made by plaintiffs against EPA (CBD v. EPA¹).

The attached assessment was conducted consistent with the Agency's Overview Document² and results in the determination that uses of metolachlor are not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) the Barton Springs salamander either directly or indirectly. As required by the Alternative Consultation Agreement EPA entered into with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service Services), the scientists preparing the assessment have been trained by the Services to make such determinations. Additionally, this assessment was subjected to internal

¹ Settlement agreement of August 22, 2005: Center for Biological Diversity v. Stephen L. Johnson, et.al. No. 1:04-cv-00126-CKK

² Overview of the Ecological Risk Assessment: Process in the Office of Pesticide Programs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Endangered and Threatened Species Effects Determinations: January 23, 2004.

Agency peer review throughout its development. Agency reviewers included another scientist who has been trained by the Services to make NLAA determinations (Melissa Panger, Ph.D.).

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this assessment and effects determination for metolachlor relative to the Barton Springs salamander.

cc: Steven Bradbury
Peter Caulkins

Attachment